

# **Planning a Visit to Chiricahua National Monument?**

## **Check the vehicle length policy.**

### **The Vehicle Length Policy:**

In an effort to improve the flow of traffic through Chiricahua National Monument, and to address potential safety hazards, **vehicles longer than 29 feet will not be permitted beyond the Visitor Center** on the Chiricahua National Monument scenic drive effective October 1, 2004.

Fifth wheel and bumper pull trailers will also be limited to 29 feet or less, measured as the trailer length. This vehicle length limitation will apply to vehicles entering Bonita Campground.

Parking for oversize vehicles will be at the Bonita Creek and Faraway Ranch Picnic Areas. Limited, short-term parking will be available at the Visitor Center. If you have an extra-large vehicle, please use your tow vehicle or carpool with friends. Another option is to arrive in time for the hikers' shuttle that leaves daily at 8:30 a.m. from the Visitor Center.

### **Why Is This Policy Necessary?**

The six-mile scenic drive from the Visitor Center to Massai Point is a narrow, winding road with deep canyons, hairpin curves, and overhanging boulders that was improved by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The road's tight turning radiuses, steep grades, 25 mph speed limit, and limited parking space create potential safety hazards and traffic delays when the road is used by oversized vehicles.

Before taking this action, the National Park Service studied the transportation conditions at Chiricahua National Monument. That study, completed in April 2000, recommended restrictions on vehicle length along the scenic drive to address safety hazards and improve traffic flow.

Vehicle length restrictions are also necessary in the Bonita Campground due to the size of the sites and the two creek crossings. When large vehicles attempt to negotiate the crossings, they scrape the concrete causing damage to the undercarriages. Hoses may sever creating hazardous material spills in the campground and Bonita Creek watershed.

Thank you for your cooperation in protecting Chiricahua National Monument.